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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE

1. Attached are nine sketches of airfields near Riga, and of installations at those airfields. Sketch No. 1 on page 5 shows the location of the fields in relation to Riga. 25X1

Riga-Spilve Airfield

2. Along the northern edge of Spilve Airfield, there were always five jet fighters, parked diagonally in a row, ready for immediate take-off. Near these aircraft, but on the eastern edge of the field, along the road to Bolderaja (Daugavgrivas iela), there was a building which appeared to be quarters for pilots (see sketch No. 2 on page 6).
3. Immediately south of this building, there was an unusual device used for target practice (see sketch No. 3 on page 7). It was a cigar-shaped tube, apparently made of plywood, and painted black. It was about two meters long, about four meters above the ground, and had a raised metal tail fin raked back over the stern. The target was supported at each end by a pole that could move up and down, so that the nose and tail of the target could be alternately raised and lowered during firing. Below the target, between the supports, was what appeared to be an armored box, which measured about two and one-half meters by two meters by two meters. A few meters from the stern end of the target there was an elevated firing platform. When not in use, the platform was about two meters above the ground, and was entered by a ladder. When being used for firing, the platform was raised by a piston until the gunner and machine gun were level with the target. The target then began to oscillate, and the gunner fired at it. Troops were also seen firing rifles at this target from trenches in the ground.
4. Just south of the target, there were one or two buildings and fuel tanks, and just south of the tanks there were several large, green, two-engine aircraft, presumably bombers. It was at this point that the two main runways diverged, one running north, and the other northwest. The runways were concrete. 25X1

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		ABC									
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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5. Just south of the large aircraft, there was another cigar-shaped target, like the one described above, and just south of the target there were several bombers.
6. From the southeast corner of the airfield, the street named Podraga iela ran eastward to the river. On the north side of the street there were an Air Force barrack and what appeared to be an Air Force training school. On the south side of the street, where the Podraga Cement Plant had been, there were a motor pool and a radio station. South of these, the cement plant was still in existence.
7. In the center of the southern boundary of the airfield, a civil air terminal had been built, with a restaurant, post office, parking area with flower beds, and other amenities. Civil aircraft always parked just north of the terminal, but made use of the same runways as the military aircraft for taking off and landing.
8. Rows of jet aircraft were always parked along the western edge of the airfield. [] they were MIG fighters, and estimated their number at between 30 and 60.
9. A forked spur from the Riga-Bolderaja railroad was constructed just south of the airfield, one fork running into the cement plant, and the other into the shipyard which lies south of the cement plant on Saksu iela. The river inlet between the shipyard and the cement plant was filled in with sand, stones, and rubble.

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Experimental Aircraft Plant

10. Six hundred fifty meters south of the air terminal, on the east side of Slokas iela opposite the junction with Darza iela, there was an Experimental Aircraft Plant (Eksperimentālnyy Aviofabrik). The roar of jet engines on the test stands could be heard several kilometers away at all times of day except between 0300 and 0700 hours. By the fall of 1955, this plant was to be moved to Dobeles, 65 km. southwest of Riga.
11. Just north of the aircraft plant, along both sides of Puika iela, there was an Air Force barrack with sports grounds.

Seaplane Base at Kletnieki

12. [] the old seaplane base at Kletnieki, 1½ km. east of Spilve, was no longer in use.

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Airfields at Beberbekis

13. At Beberbekis, two km. southwest of the center of Riga, there were two adjacent airfields, the newer one lying just west of the old one. These airfields were screened from the road (Kalnciema iela) by trees, [] (see sketch No. 4 on page 8).

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New Airfield at Dole

14. There was a new airfield at Dole, 12 km. southeast of Riga. The airfield lay to the west of the Riga-Ogre road, just opposite the Dole railroad station, and it extended along the road for one km., between the road and the Daugava River (see sketch No. 5 on page 9). The airfield had concrete runways and concrete underground construction. Between the road and the railroad, there were more large underground structures and two radio masts. There were more than 40 aircraft parked on the grass near the river. Half of the aircraft were MIGs, and the other half looked like Messerschmidts (see sketch No. 6 on page 10). During the spring of 1954, one-half of the Riga-Ogre road was blocked off for a time, at the place where it passed Dole Airfield. [] underground pipes were being laid between the airfield and the buildings on the east side of the road.

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Airfields near Ulbroka

15. The Riga broadcasting station was at Ulbroka, five km. southeast of Riga. There was an airfield one and one-half km. northwest of the village of Ulbroka, where tank trucks and five to seven aircraft of the Messerschmidt type were seen. There were no buildings on the airfield [redacted]
16. There was another small airfield, with a few wooden buildings, two and one-half km. northeast of Ulbroka. About one dozen aircraft were seen here, some of which were MIG jets, and the others were of the Messerschmidt type. This airfield was partly screened by small trees.

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Airfields near Tukums

17. A new military town has been built two km. southeast of Tukums, which is 60 km. west of Riga. The new town is bigger than the old one, and includes air force barracks. During 1952, a new airfield was built five km. east-southeast of the old town. It was located about one and one-half km. from the junction of the roads from Tukums to Riga and Jelgava, and was screened from the road by a hill about 200 meters high. Approximately one km. east of the road junction, the southern corner of the airfield could be seen from the road to Riga. Buildings and aircraft have been seen on the field [redacted] (see sketch No. 7 on page 11).
18. From the road junction, a new road, with a barrier across the entrance, led to the airfield. On the north side of the new road, 200 meters from the main road, a water tower 25 meters high, with a conical roof, was built by troops. It stood inside a large fenced area, within which several high-quality brick buildings, three stories high, and very long, were under construction. This area, which was on top of the 200 meter hill, was a prohibited zone. From it, a long ditch, six to seven meters deep, three to five meters wide, and 200 meters long, led down the hillside northwestward toward the new town, but stopped short of it. No power pylons were visible in this area, and no railroad tracks led to it or to the airfield (see sketch No. 8 on page 12).
19. Five km. due east of the old town of Tukums, there was an older airfield equipped with permanent brick buildings and also with some wooden shacks. It was about three km. long from east to west [redacted]. Thirty or more aircraft, mostly jets, had been seen at this airfield. There were at least two runways surfaced with asphalt or concrete. Source believed that they ran east and west, but did not know their dimensions.
20. The lake just south of the old town of Tukums has been filled in. The main road to Riga has been displaced about two km. west of the old route for a distance of approximately three km. south of the old town, in order to bypass the new military town.

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Dobele

21. A large new military town similar to that at Tukums has been built two km. north of the old town of Dobele, which is 65 km. west-southwest of Riga. The new town had many well-built brick buildings of two or three stories, housing Army troops and officers, and covering an area along the Dobele-Tukums road approximately two km. by one km. (see sketch No. 9 on page 13).

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22. One km. north of the new town of Dobeles were some new buildings, to which the Experimental Aircraft Plant in Riga was expected to move before the fall of 1955.
23. There was a large Army tank training ground six km. west-northwest of Dobeles, on the southwest side of the Dobeles-Turkums road. Immediately northwest of this training ground, and flanking the road, there was an Air Force camp, with a triumphal arch surmounted by a blue star. A cigar-shaped target, like those at Spilve Airfield, was observed in the camp, which is partly screened from the road by trees. No airfield or aircraft were observed at this place.
24. Approximately 12 km. west-northwest of these camps, near Annenieku, a new hydroelectric power station with four small turbines has been built to supply the camps and local collective farms.

Other Installations at Riga

25. On the north shore of Lake Jugla, about 11 km. from the center of Riga, there was an Air Force barrack on the south side of the Riga-Sigulda road. No aircraft, but many radio aeriels were observed there.
26. Nine hundred meters east of the railroad bridge in the center of Riga, there was an Air Force barrack and an air high school on both sides of the street named Aiviekstes ielas. The two buildings on the north side of the street were for officers, and those on the south side were for airmen and for cadets, who wore blue shoulder boards with gold piping.
27. twin-engine jet aircraft in Riga in the summer of 1954.

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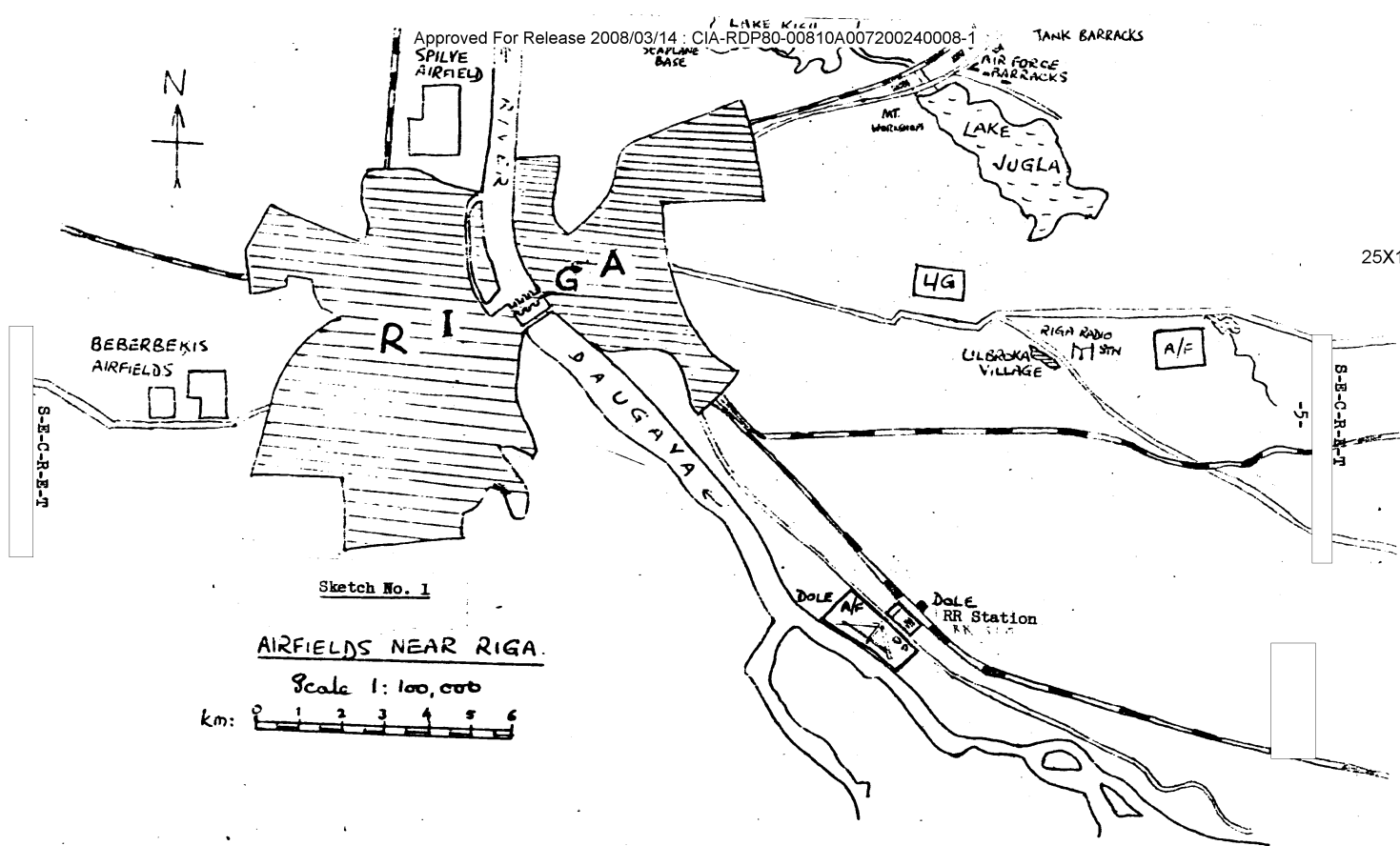
Attachments: Nine

1. Location sketch of Airfields near Riga
2. Layout sketch of Riga/Spilve Airfield
3. Sketch of cigar-shaped target
4. Layout sketch of Beberbekis Airfield
5. Layout sketch of Dole Airfield
6. Sketch of Messerschmidt-type Aircraft
7. Location sketch of Airfields near Tukums
8. Sketch of compound near Tukums
9. Sketch of military installations near Dobeles

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AIRFIELDS NEAR RIGA.

Scale 1:100,000

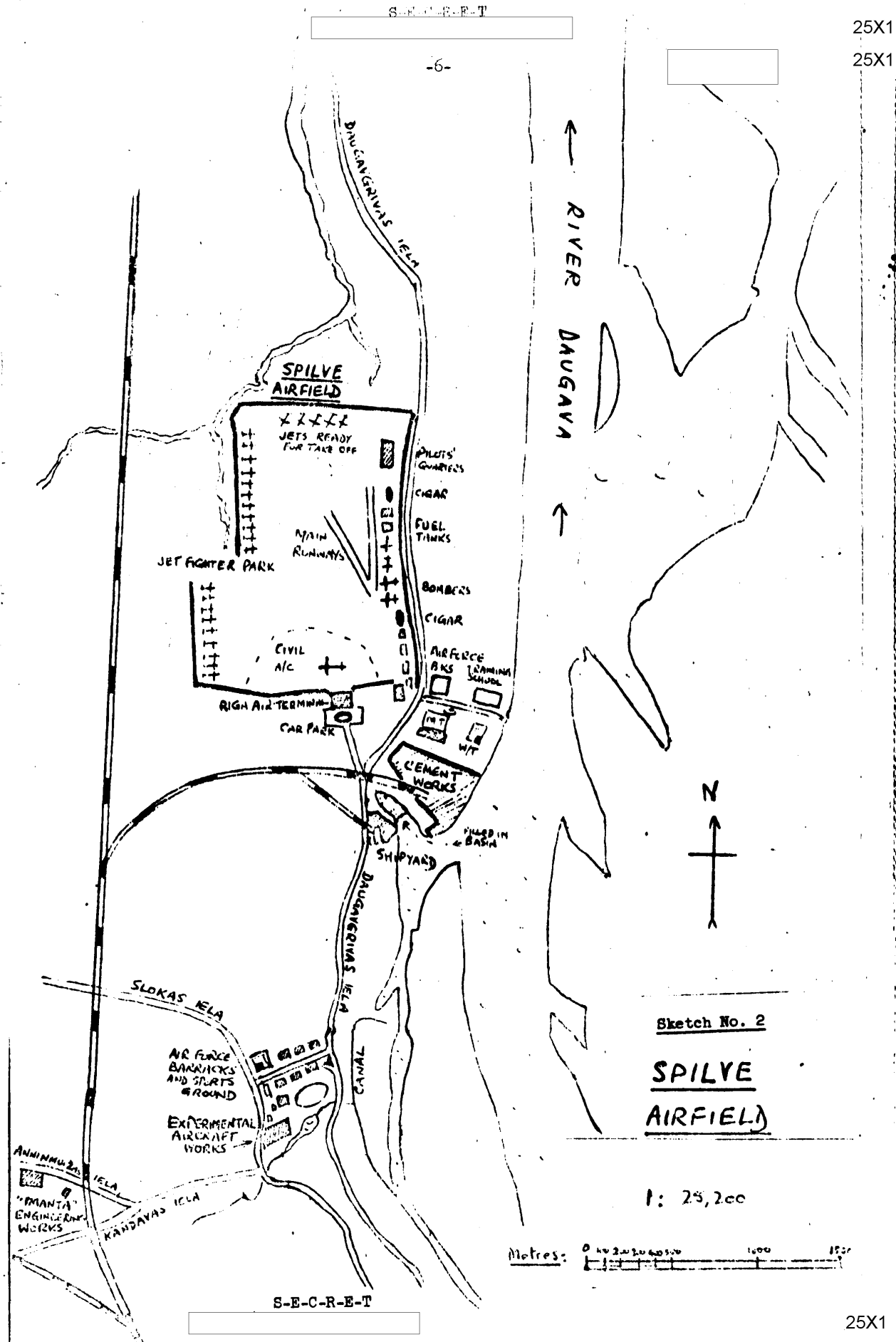
km: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6

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Sketch No. 2

SPILVE
AIRFIELD

1: 25,200

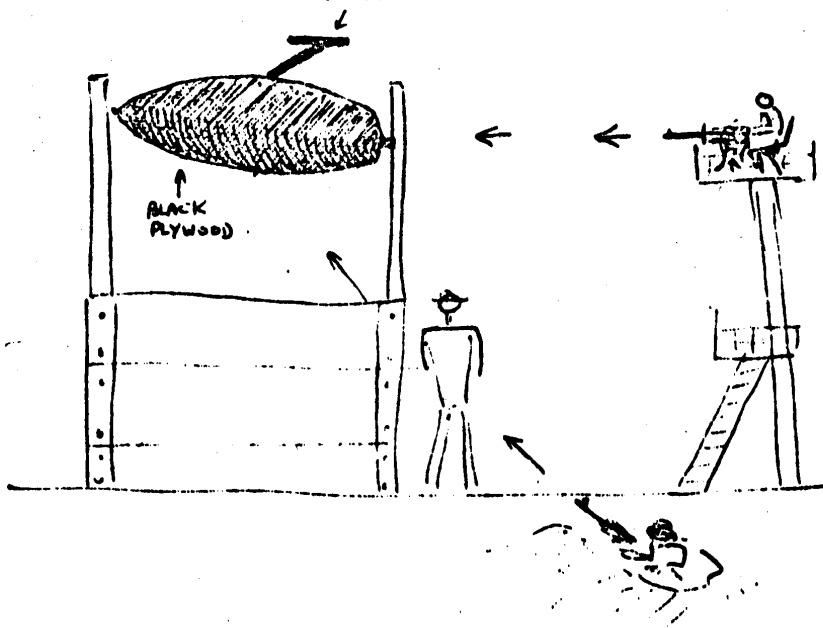
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Sketch No. 3
Sketch of Cigar-Shaped Target

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BEERBEKIS AIRFIELDS

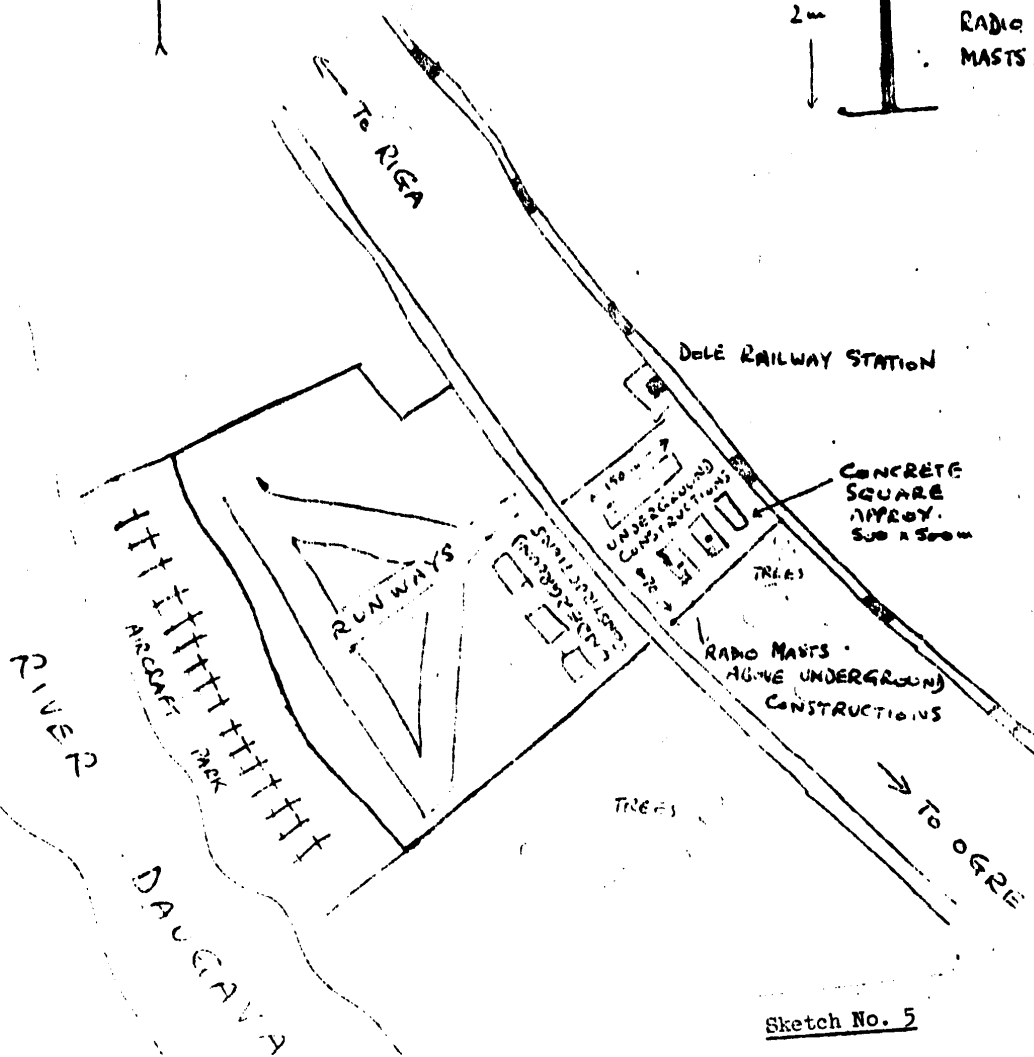
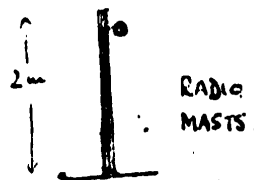


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SECTION OF
UNDERGROUND
CONSTRUCTIONS



Sketch No. 5

DOLE AIRFIELD

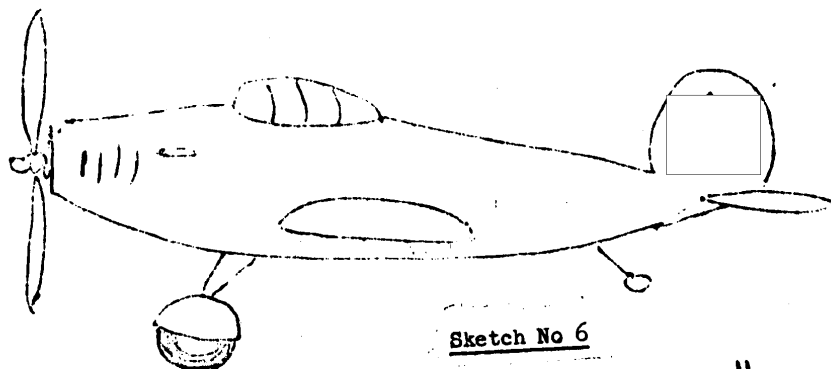
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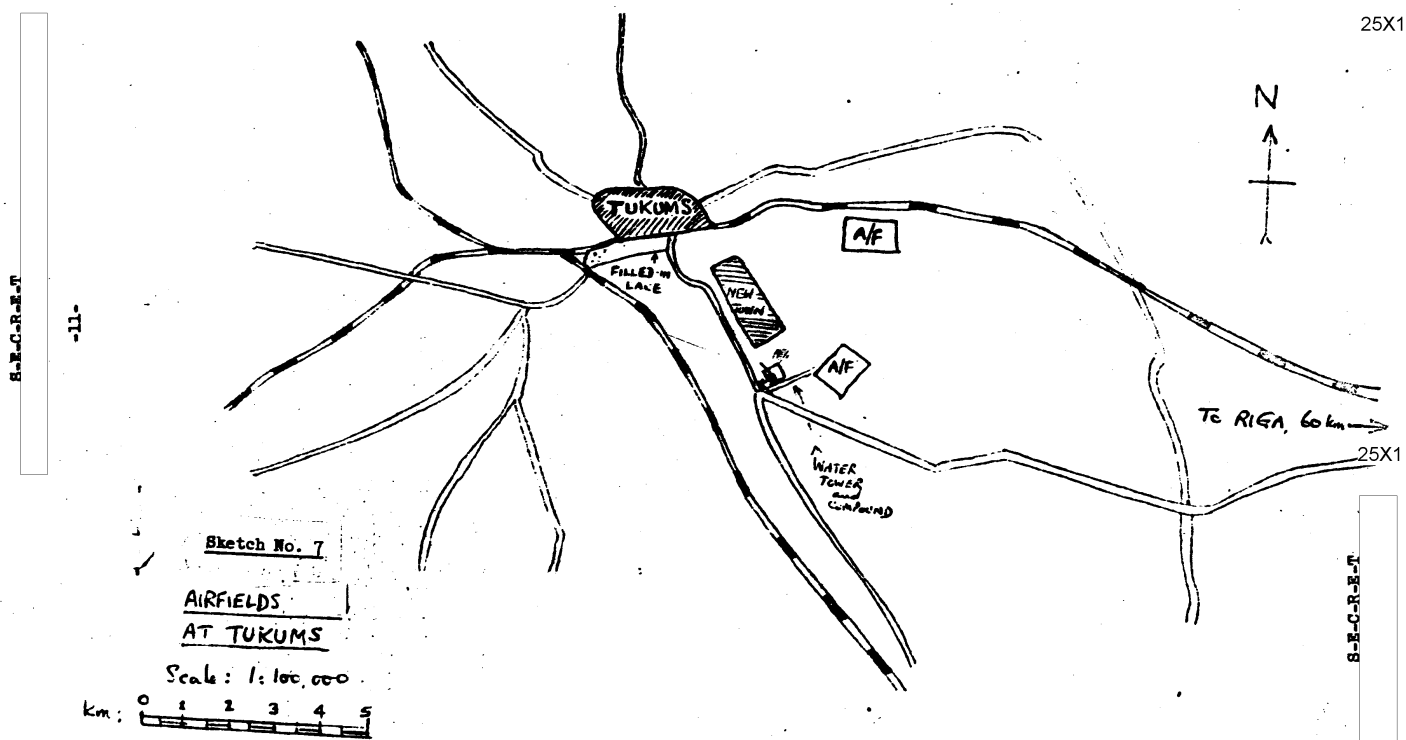
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Sketch No 6

"MESSERSCHMIDT-TYPE" AIRCRAFT

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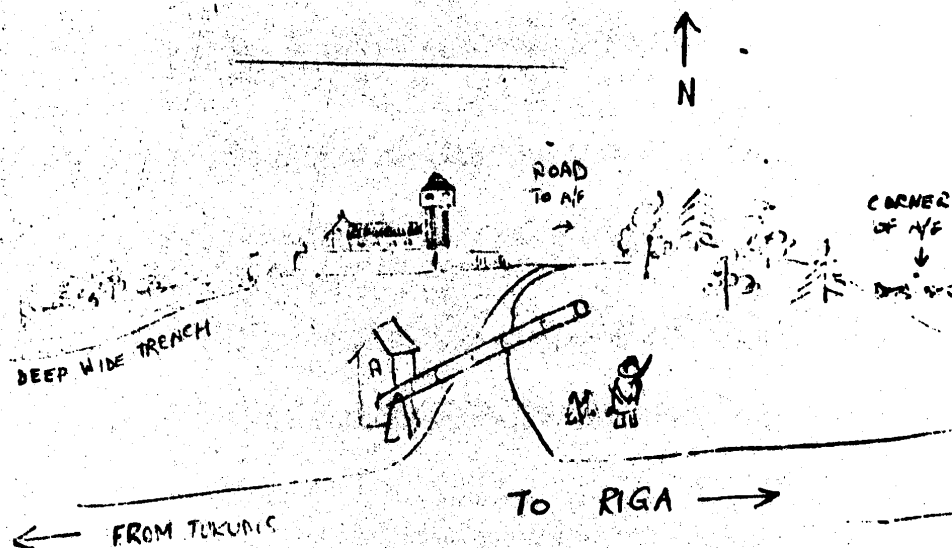
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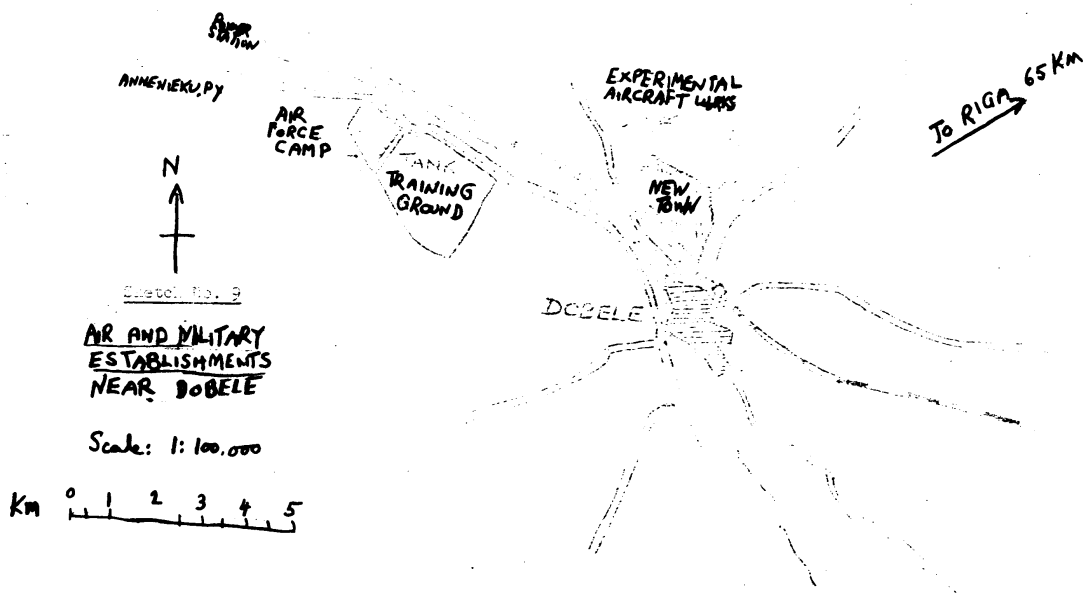
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Sketch No. 8
VIEW OF WATER TOWER COMPOUND,
5 km ESE of TURKUS

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